



## TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Government Study Commission

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2300 Ext. 100 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

**APPROVED**

### Government Study Commission

#### Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Meeting Room 1, Town Offices, 25 Bryants Lane

#### AGENDA

1. Review/Approve Minutes of January 30, 2014 Meeting
2. 6:35 PM - Discussion with Town Collector
3. 7:05 PM – Discussion with Town Clerk
4. Review Previous Town Elections Results
5. Continue Discussion on Potential Recommendations for 2014 Annual Town Meeting
6. Schedule Next Meeting





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Members Present: Karyn Puleo, Paula Derby, Eileen Farrell, Diane Keohane, Jackqueline Schnackertz

Absent: Donald Lampron, Robert Mercier

Staff Present: Nina Nazarian

6:48 PM meeting convened by Karyn Puleo

### Introductions

The Minutes of January 30<sup>th</sup> were approved 4-1-0 on a motion by Diana Keohane, and second by Eileen Farrell, Jackie Schnackertz abstains.

Collector – Pro's and Con's with elected vs. appointed. Mr. Spickler has been the elected collector for the last 22 years.

The Advantages – 1) closest you can get to the people; 2) town resident (must be) as elected those that don't have investment may not be dedicate as much.

"Recall" vote at Town Meeting did not pass.

MS. Keohane asked if #2 was from being elected or a town resident. Mr. Spickler said resident.

Ms. Puleo asked if Mr. Spickler could provide some information regarding appointed employees in past (good & Bad). Were they appointed by the Board of Selectmen?

Ms. Keohane asked if it were to change would it be something to bring to the Board's authority under the recommendation of the Town Administrator.

Mr. Mercier joined the meeting at 6:58PM.

Mr. Mercier – in Burlington the Town Administrator was strong and had appointing authority. Super majority to reject. Billerica was strong manager also. Town Meeting appointed all (strong Charter). Burlington – special act of legislature.

Mr. Spickler – chance of politicizing the position.

Mr. Mercier – you can strengthen language – BOS has to have a reason.

Ms. Schnackertz – legal issue?

Mr. Mercier - never happened to me.





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Ms. Puleo – do resumes go to BOS?

Mr. Mercier – best way, no

Ms. Puleo – could you come in today without tax collector experience?

Mr. Spickler – yes – good systems in place, state groups, read the law book. Computer systems are better, had someone who worked for me for 6 years in the department.

- Had FC and BOS request waive fees
- Good and bad to both

Mr. Spickler - if I was the manager, yes, I would want to appoint. You have to get the person who can do the best job.

Mr. Mercier – it is more complex today.

Ms. Farrell – elections can make it difficult to manage the person.

Mr. Mercier – I agree with Mr. Spickler, the job is “learnable” but accountability goes away.

Mr. Spickler – goes both ways, always bad apples in the barrels. My opinion is I can see both sides, my position on joint treasurer/collector would always bring in a strong assistant.

Ms. Schnackertz – you are under mid-managers CBA?

Mr. Spickler – no, I have no personnel obligations I follow mid=managers, respectful to the Town.

Slightly prefer elected – more and more are going in appoint.

Discussion – should collector be under treasurer/collector; Board of Assessors? Appoint? Elect? All Finance under one person? Kerry? Accountant.

Mr. Mercier – In some towns BOS appoints Accountant for segregation (check and balances) keeps full financial control from being under one appointing authority.

Where do we want the “check” to be?

Discussion ensued – Finance Director (TA Appt.); Assistant Collector/Treasurer (TA Appt.); Assessor; Accountant (Board of Selectman Appt.); Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Collector.





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Michael?

Next Meeting – MG's vision of a finance office (should we det. that the collector).

Discussion on the complied election information.

Reconsideration to dissolve the Cemetery Commission – who digs graves? Consider rolling under public works.

Tree Warden recommendation – certified arborist (reg. by M.G.L. (stipend)

8:25PM Jackie Schnackertz left the meeting.

Next meeting 03/13/2014 at 6:30PM, ask Joanne Shifres if she can make the 3/13/2014 meeting.

\*speak to Doug Latulippe and Bob Pelletier re: public works.

The Committee voted 5-0-0 on a motion by Diana Keohane, second by Eileen Farrell, to adjourn.

The Committee adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted

Nina Nazarian  
Assistant Town Administrator

Approved on March 13, 2014

